

CDF NEWS RELEASE

California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection



CONTACT: Karen Terrill
Public Information Officer
916 654-7554

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Parents are Liable for Fireworks Damage Caused by Their Children

Sacramento- There is one more reason to be careful with fireworks this Fourth of July; parents can be held liable for the cost of fighting any fires that their children start. The firefighters of the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CDF), and the State Fire Marshal's Office remind all parents to watch their children closely this holiday and report any fires immediately.

"It happens virtually every year," says State Fire Marshal John Tennant. "Kids take fireworks out into a field or vacant lot and set the grass on fire. If a responsible adult reports it quickly, we can usually put it out in time. But if that fire gets away, the costs can be huge."

"The message is simple," adds Chief Tennant. "Make sure your children only use Safe and Sane fireworks. Use them properly, according to directions. Make sure a responsible adult is there at all times with a water source such as a bucket of water, or garden hose. And if a fire does occur, call 911 immediately. You can always attend one of the many public fireworks displays. They really are the best show. Whatever you do, be careful, be responsible and enjoy your Independence Day!"

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